UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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EXAMINER
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ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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APPLICATION NO./ CONTROL NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR / PATENT IN REEXAMINATION	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.

EXAMINER

ART UNIT	PAPER

20060728

DATE MAILED:

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Commissioner for Patents

Attached is a corrected Examiner's Answer.

PTO-90C (Rev.04-03)

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Technology Center 2100

BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS
AND INTERFERENCES

Application Number: 09/518,583
Filing Date: March 03, 2000
Appellant(s): CHOW ET AL.

Trent A. Kirk
Reg. No. 54,223
For Appellant

EXAMINER'S ANSWER

This is in response to the substitute appeal brief filed 6 October 2006, correcting deficiencies of

appeal brief filed on 5 June 2006 appealing from the Office action mailed 10 August 2005.

(1)   Real Party in Interest

GetThere Inc.

(2)   Related Appeals and Interferences

The statement of the status of related appeals and/or interferences is correct.

(3)   Status of Claims

The statement of the status of the claims contained in the brief is correct.

(4)   Status of Amendments After Final

The statement of the status of after final amendments in the brief is correct.

(5)   Summary of Claimed Subject Matter

The summary of claimed subject matter contained in the brief is correct.

(6)   Grounds of Rejection to be Reviewed on Appeal

The appellant's grounds of rejection to reviewed in the brief is correct

(7)   Claims Appendix

The copy of the appealed claims contained in the Appendix to the brief is correct.

(8)   Evidence Relied Upon

6,453,353	Win et al.	17 September 2002
6,144,959	Anderson et al.	07 November 2000

(9)   Grounds of Rejection

The following grounds of rejection are applicable to the appealed claims:

Claims 1-4, 7-14, 17-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Win et al.

U.S. Patent No. 6,453,353 (hereinafter '353).

Regarding claim 1, as per the first limitation of independent claim 1, "A method of performing multiple user authentications with a single sign-on, comprising: performing a first user authentication; selecting a remote server subsequent to said first authentication" is taught in '353 col. 5, line 65 through col. 6, line 16.

As per the second limitation, "sending a token to said remote server containing authentication information responsive to said first authentication, wherein the token also contains information regarding an account for the user including" and "decoding said authentication information, wherein said decoding said authentication information induces a second user authentication" is shown in '353 col. 6, lines 58-65 "When the user selects a resource, the browser sends and open URL request and cookie to a Protected Web Server. A Protected Web Server is a web server with resources protected by the Runtime Module. The Runtime Module decrypts information in the cookie and uses it to verify that the user is authorized to access the resource. The cookie is also used by the resource to return information that is customized based on the user's name and roles".

As per the third limitation, "at least one of a new account for the user and an update to an existing account for the user" is disclosed in '353 col. 13, lines 22-53. (Note, all arguments focus on this function, which defined in '353 and which can be done at anytime , i.e. "repeated at any desired time", the cookies or token would be updated at this time)

Regarding claim 2, "wherein said sending includes sending said token within a universal resource locator" is disclosed in '353 col. 6, lines 58-65.

Regarding claim 3, "wherein said token includes a timestamp" is taught in '353 col. 6, lines 47-53.

Regarding claim 4, "wherein said token is encrypted" is shown in '353 col. 6,

lines 58-65.

Regarding claim 7, "wherein the information regarding an account for the user in said

token includes user profile update information" is taught in '353 col. 11,

lines 21-32.

Regarding claim 8, "wherein said remote server updates a user profile in response to said

user profile update information" is taught in '353 col. 11, lines 21-32

Regarding claim 9, "wherein said first user authentication occurs within an Intranet" is

shown in '353 col. 4, lines 50-67.

Regarding claim 10, "wherein said second user authentication occurs within said remote

server" is disclosed in '353 col. 21, lines 8-28 and col. 17, lines 27-37

Regarding claim 11, this claim is directed to a system implementing the method of

claim 1 and it is rejected along similar rationale.

Regarding claim 21, this claims is directed to a system implementing the method of

claim 1 and is rejected along similar rationale.

Regarding claims 12-14, 17-20, and 22, these claims all stand or fall with

claims 2-4, 7-11, and 21.

Claims 5, 6, 15 and 16, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over

'353 in further view of Anderson et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,144,959 (hereinafter '959). The

motivation to combine these references as indicated in the previous office action modification is

to permit an administrator to manage user accounts see '959 col. 4, lines 20 et seq. "The

invention includes a system for authenticating a user to multiple systems. In addition, the system

authenticates to a client workstation in a manner transparent to the user, and generates a user

account on the client workstation if the user account does not exist. Further, the system provides

a workstation object to a directory services database, permitting a network administrator to

efficiently manage client workstation accounts".

Regarding claim 5, "wherein the information regarding an account for the user in said

token includes a new user flag" is taught in '959 col. 7, line 62 through col. 8, line 23 "The

Win32 API includes a number of functions for performing operations with credential

information. The Win32 API includes the NetUserAdd function used to create a new user on a

local Windows NT workstation. The NetUserAdd function accepts a number of parameters. A

first parameter specifies in which domain a user account is created. When the value of the

parameter supplied by a program is null, the NetUserAdd function creates a user on the local

workstation within the local access database 203. Another parameter includes a number of sub-

parameters such as username and password, wherein the username is the name of a new user to

be created and the password is a password to be assigned to the new user".

Regarding "wherein said remote server creates a new user account in response to said

new user flag" is shown in '959 col. 7, line 62 through col. 8, line 23.

Regarding claims 15 and 16, these claims stand or fall with claims 5 and 6.

(10) Response to Argument

Regarding Appellant's argument 1, on page 7, "In contrast to cited reference the claims

indicate: (a) performing multiple user authentication (b) selecting remote server (c) sending

token to remote server (d) including a least one of a new account or update

The grounds of rejection stand this is all shown in the cited reference:

Win discloses (a) multiple user authentication in col. 5, line 65 through col. 6, line 16,

(i.e. "users").

Win discloses (b & c) selecting a remote server and sending token to remote server in

col. 6, lines 58-65 note tokens are interpreted to be equivalent to cookies.

Win discloses (d) including at lest one of a new account or update in col. 13, lines 45-67

and col. 11, lines 22-32 (note: "defining roles, and creating profiles for roles and person. The

inventory step involves listing all existing and planned resources for which protection and

controlled access is desire. For each resource, access privileges, roles, and function groups are

identified. These steps are carried out once initially to establish system 2, and may be repeated

at any desired time to integrate additional roles, user types, and resources into the system".

Regarding Appellant's argument 2, on page 8, "While Win disclosed SSO, Win does not

disclose sending a token to a remote server that contains authentication information.

The grounds of rejection stand this is the same argument the above shows Win delivering

a token with authentication information in col. 6, lines 58-65.

Regarding Appellant's argument 3, on pages 9-10, "Therefore, updated information is not

included with the cookies since updating occurs at the Access Server or Registry Server (see

Figures 1 and 4 or Win). Similarly, Win does not disclose that the cookies contain information

regarding a new account for the user. Simply providing the capability to update or add a new

account is significantly different than providing information regarding a new account or an

update to an existing account with a token to a remote sever, as recited by the claimed invention

... This is unlike the claims of the present application, as described above, in which token

reflective of new or updated user account information are sent to a remote server. In this regard,

Win nowhere discloses that the cookies contain information regarding an update to an existing

account or information regarding a new account".

The grounds of rejection stand Win discloses delivering update or new account

information see in addition review Win columns 9 through column 20 for more details how user

profiles and roles can be created. Also see col. 9, lines 33-45 for an explanation how the

authentication client module enable users to begin and end authenticated session and change

their account profiles. See col. 11, lines 21-26 for an explanation of the profile management

service for changing the password. See col. 13, lines 8-16 for how an administration application

can create, delete, modify user, resource, and role records. Win further discloses retrieving

profile information that comprises information such as IP address, user's name, and information

defining a user's role, this information is added to the cookie, see col. 10, lines 43-55. One of

ordinary skill would recognize that since the profile information is added to the cookie, any

modifications, changes or new account information would be reflected by the profile information

since Win teaches creation, modification, etc... See col. 19, lines 6-34 how roles can be selected

and assigned.

Appellants fourth argument on page 12, "Combination with Anderson et al. does not

show the updating or creating new account".

The grounds of rejection stand Win discloses delivering update or new account

information see col. 13, lines 45-67.

Appellant's fifth argument on page 12, "Combination of references does not teach new

user flag".

The grounds of rejection stand Anderson shows see col. 7, line 62 through col. 8, line 23

'a new user flag' is considered to be equivalent to 'null parameter sent'.

(11)   Related Proceedings Appendix

No decision rendered by a court or the Board is identified by the examiner in the Related

Appeals and Interferences section of this examiner's answer.

For the above reasons, it is believed that the rejections should be sustained.

Respectfully submitted,
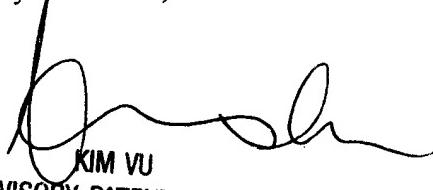
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28 July 2006

Conferences:
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